

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 742

AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL FLORENCE

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SETAF

COMSIXTHFLT

GAETA

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TAGS/PINT, PFOR, PINS, MPOL, IT, US

SUBJECT: USPARTICIPATION IN ITALIAN LIBERATION DAY CEREMONIES

BOLOGNA

1. WW 11 LIBERATION ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS WERE HELD IN BOLOGNA APRIL 20. OUR CONSUL GENERAL IN FLORENCE, A DAI REPRESENTATIVE, ARMY COLOR GUARD, SETAF HONOR GUARD AND 120 MAN RIFLE CO. OF THE 509TH AIRBORNE INFANTRY BATTALION FROM VINCENZA PARTICIPATED REPRESENTING THE UNITED STATES. THE ONLY OTHER COUNTRY WITH A CONTIGENT IN THE MILITARY PARADE WAS YUGOSLAVIA. THE CEREMONIES WENT OFF WITHOUT INCIDENT. THE US CONTIGENT WAS WELL APPLAUDED. THE GOOD RECEPTION GIVEN TO THE US REPRESENTATIVES AUGURS WELL FOR OUR SCHEDULED PARTICIPATION IN SIMILAR SEREMONIES IN ANCONA, PADAU AND MILAN.

2. PADUA - OUR CONSUL GENERAL IN MILAN AND SIX US SOLDIERS FROM SETAF WILL PARTICIPATE IN PADUA LIBERATION CEREMONIES. THE US
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SOLDIERS PRESENT WILL TAKE PART ONLY IN WREATH LAYING CEREMONIES

AND WILL NOT MARCH. IN ADDITION, USIS IS PROVIDING A DISPLAY AT THE PADUA RESISTANCE MOVEMENT EXHIBITION.

3. ANCONA - A CIVILIAN EMBASSY OFFICER, A US ARMY COLOR GUARD FROM SETAF, VINCENZA, AND POSSIBLY AT 17-MAN CONTINGENT OF THE SIXTH FLEET BAND WILL REPRESENT THE US AT THE ANCONA LIBERATION ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION APRIL 27.

4. MILAN - THE LEVEL OF US PARTICIPATION IN THE MAY3-4 MILAN LIBERATION ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE EXISTING SECURITY SITUATION AND THE LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION OF OTHER COUNTRIES INVITED TO SEND MARCHING CONTINGENTS (FRANCE, POLAND, UK). THE AMBASSADOR WILL REPRESENT THE US AT THE CELEBRATIONS. IN ADDITION, UNLESS CONTRAINDICATED, TWO 120 MAN RIFLE COS. OF THE 509TH AIRBORNE INFANTRY BATTALION, SETAF COLOR AND HONOR GUARDS AND A 15-MAN CONTINGENT OF THE SIXTH FLEET BAND WILL PARTICIPATE. CONGEN MILAN IS IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE PREFECT, COMMANDING GENERAL AND THE POLITICAL LEADERSHIP ON THE SITUATION AS IT DEVELOPS IN THE WAKE OF LAST WEEK'S DISORDERS (ROME 5799).

5. COMMENT: THE POLITICAL ADVANTAGES OF OUR PARTICIPATION IN THESE OBSERVANCES IS CLEAR. PARTICULARLY AT A TIME WHEN SOME ARE ANXIOUSLY QUESTIONING US COMMITMENT TO TRADITIONAL ALLIANCES, IT IS USEFUL TO REMIND ITALIANS OF OUR MAJOR ROLE IN THE LIBERATION OF THEIR COUNTRY AND OUR INTEREST IN MAINTAINING THE TIES THAT BIND.BEAUDRY

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